

**METHOD OF MANUFACTURING CONTOURED CONSOLIDATED
CELLULOSIC PANELS WITH VARIABLE BASIS WEIGHT**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of manufacturing a contoured, consolidated cellulosic article, with variable basis weight, is disclosed. The method employs a former to create a mat having a substantially uniform thickness which is pre-pressed to retain its shape. The pre-pressed mat is then machined along at least one surface to result in a desirable contour. The contoured mat is then consolidated within a secondary press. The secondary press preferably includes platens shaped complementarily to the surfaces of the mat.